

Griff Discusses Baker's Retirement---Jones Should Star in Meet---Forfeits Are Posted

GRIFF IS SORRY AND GLAD TO LEARN BAKER LEAVES GAME

Old Fox Hates to Have Such Good Type of Player Quit, But Ticked at Missing Those Home Run Drives.

Ray Morgan Has Some Warm Work Coming to Him at Charlottesville, If He Reports Out of Good Condition.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

Clark Griffith, boss of the Nationals, is sorry and glad that Frank Baker has decided to quit the Mackmen, retiring from the diamond to his green acres at Trappe, Md.

"I am sorry to have a fine type of man, such as is Baker, leave the game," explained the Old Fox, "and I am tickled to death to have him get out of that infield that has caused me so much trouble these last three years. He has been a pest to my ball club and, having him go, ought to make me grin. Maybe now we'll have a chance to win the pennant."

"Speaking seriously, however, Baker will be missed greatly by the Philadelphia fans. Quiet and serious in his disposition, he fought his way into the favor of the posters. Remember the cries of 'yellow' that used to go up? Cobb was supposed to have Baker out in left field whenever Ty reached second base. Well, Baker proved by actual work that he had as much nerve as any man in the game. He took the spike wounds and other injuries as part of a day's work. Furthermore, if you look at the record books, you'll find that Baker covered as much ground as any other third baseman in the big leagues. Those old walls of his are going to be missed many a day next summer. The passing of Baker means considerable to the Washington ball club. He broke up many hot games that should have come our way but died after he got hold of one and sent it to the wall. In this way I am pleased to have him out of that ball club. Old-time McGraw, Harry and Murphy made hard enough work for the opposing pitcher to suit anybody alive."

Ray Morgan, the Griffiths' pulpy second baseman, informs his boss that he is working hard every day in a gym at Baltimore.

"Well for him that he is," grins the Old Fox. "He has the time of his young life once he lands at Charlottesville. He'll do about as well as any work as any other man in the squad. He'll work early and late, and will be ready to drop to the ground when given the word to quit. There'll be no parades downtown nights for him. He'll go to bed as soon as he has his supper down."

Morgan put on a lot of weight during the winter and says that he would never be able to make his old job secure until he had come through a course of sprouting and growing work. It was suggested that Mike Martin take Ray in hand, but the Baltimorean frowned on that. He asked for permission to train in his home town, and is said to be doing as well as he can. He is said to be faithful in his training. He'll have it coming at Charlottesville.

Booth Hopper, the pitcher, obtained from St. Louis in exchange for Tom Long, notified Manager Griffith of the death of Hopper, or, however, Hopper will report on time to go to Charlottesville, etc. He is spending the winter at his home in Jackson, Tenn.

Hughy Jennings has departed for the happy training camp. The Tigers will work once more at Gulfport, Miss., and the sorely tried leader wants to be on hand when the bell rings. He will have some ten days' start on his athletes.

Joe Kelley has taken charge of the Yankees' battery candidates at Hot Springs, Ark. They expect to get some light batting practice, the weather is so soft and balmy.

Captain Huston, a new York mogul, says that he will celebrate every future annual American League meeting with a great banquet to the managers and scribbles. However, all managers will be barred, he says. "Cap knows something."

Harry Wolverton, managing the San Francisco club, has released unconditionally Charlie O'Leary, once some in-fighter with the pennant-winning Detroit Tigers. O'Leary is the latest old star to fall by the wayside in the retirement scheme now popular in all leagues.

Fordham's First Workout Is Scheduled for Today

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Today brings the beginning of indoor baseball practice at Fordham. For the last few days the small crowd of spectators has gathered in the dormitories and much baseball regalia is evident in the students' rooms, ready to be worn today and used in the gymnasium.

About forty candidates have been handed their names to Harry Kane and arranged to have the meeting placed for the indoor cage. Among the names are: Tom Long, catcher, who made such a fine impression with the Fordham students last year, and who has some remarkable work with the team, was on hand yesterday arranging things and will assume complete control today.

Garfield Wins. Peck Chapel proved no match for the Garfield outfit, which won by a score of 22 to 20. Wheeler shot fourteen baskets from the front line and the other players in this respect.

THIS GREAT SLUGGER PREFERS FARMER'S QUIET LIFE TO WINNING CHEERS AND DOLLARS ON MANY DIAMONDS



On the left you see J. FRANKLIN BAKER waiting for a slow one, while on the right you see him swinging viciously at one of Walter Johnson's fast ones.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—New York is without Jammie A. Gilmore, president of the Federal League, today; likewise is New York without a Federal League ball club. The director general of the busy major folded his tent and slipped away for Pinhurst, N. C., without leaving the Indianapolis Feds here, as rumored. The invasion of Gotham has been postponed another year.

Newark has been decided on for the Kansas City franchise. It was learned today. The formal announcement will come probably tomorrow from Pat Powers, the "man behind the gun" in the shift.

"Soon or later," said Gilmore, as he boarded his train, "the Feds are going to be in New York—you can bet on that."

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The middies did not suffer very heavily from the winter weather. They are all young and the prospects of turning out a strong team are considered good, and this they will have to do because the schedule of games is the hardest ever tackled by a navy team.

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GOULD MENEFEE TO COACH AT CENTRAL

Blue and White May Have Old Alumnus Showing 'Ike' MacDonald's Lads Points.

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MINCE PIE THE LITTLE OF EVERYTHING By "BUGS" BAER.

The suffering among the destitute defies description. Penn University is down to boasting she has a champion wrestler.

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WILL HOLD FINALS IN TITLE MATCHES

Wrestlers Will Go to the Mat at Armory Tomorrow Night for Championships.

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FRANK BAKER QUILTS BASEBALL FOR FARM

Philadelphia Fans Amazed as Famous \$100,000 Infield Is Smashed to Pieces.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17.—Fans here stand amazed at the official announcement from Connie Mack that J. Franklin Baker, the famous home-run slugger, hero of every world's series, has played in except the last, has quit baseball forever. What will become of the once great \$100,000 infield cannot be foretold.

"I have nothing to add to my announcement at the banquet of the Sport Writers' Association last night," said Connie Mack today. "There has been no disagreement over salary terms with Baker. He has just simply decided to quit, that's all. I seriously doubt any story to the effect that he is to sign up with the St. Louis Feds."

The announcement from Connie Mack came like a thunderclap at the big banquet here last night. After President Isaminger had lauded the team leader for several minutes, he allowed Connie to rise. At the very start Connie said: "Gentlemen, I have given you a lot of surprises lately, but tonight I tell you a real surprise for you. I have felt it coming for two or three years. The Athletics are going to lose J. Franklin Baker."

"I only received word tonight from him that he had quit baseball and that 1914 had been his last year on the diamond."

"Last spring I went down to see Baker about signing a contract. For years I had made this trip and I determined to sign Baker to a three-year contract, and I suggested this plan to him. After some difficulty he signed, but only with the proviso that if he wanted to, he could retire after the playing season of 1914. You don't have to play baseball this year if you don't want to. I told him, 'But I don't want to run down to Trappe, Md., every year.'

Baker's real reason for quitting baseball is that he prefers to remain on his big farm at Trappe, Md. Mrs. Baker, particularly since the death of their children, has been urging him to stay home with her, instead of traveling around the country with the Athletics. The big slugger has invested all his salary and world's series money in Maryland land and is well able to live from the game in which he has long been a hero."

Who will succeed Baker cannot be said right now, but little Korf may be tried there. Korf showed flashes of real class last September, especially in the three games played in Washington, and Connie Mack is inclined to try him on the hot corner. However, Korf is no home-run hitter in the pinches.

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TODAY'S SPORTORIAL

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

How many more times is Freddie Welsh, world's lightweight champion, going to be matched in no-decision bouts? The answer is plain—just as often as the public will fork over its money to see him trounced in no-decision bouts.

Charlie White, the Chicago boy, walloped the champion beautifully in ten rounds in Milwaukee. Joe Shugrue outpointed him in New York. Jimmy Duffy did the same thing in Buffalo, and Johnny Griffiths followed suit in Akron, Ohio. Furthermore, in addition to these American contenders, it is strongly suspected that both Johnny Dundee and Willie Ritchie can defeat Welsh. Ritchie is quoted as saying that he was jobbed out of his title in London. Well, some light may be shed upon that contention after the former champion meets Welsh at Madison Square Garden next month.

Welsh has held his title nearly a year now. Not since the night he outpointed Ritchie in London has Welsh entered the ring to meet an opponent in a decision affair over any distance. He has been well treated in the United States, being given bouts in every section, and always paid the price due a champion. In Akron he was given \$4,000 for twelve rounds with no decision, and Harry Pollack, his manager, had arranged things so well that Griffiths could not win on a foul. Thus, he had Welsh struck his opponent low, putting him out of business for a while. Griffiths would have had no relief, had he struggled to continue in a helpless condition, Welsh might easily have put him away, adding a rare thing to his record in the ring.

And this is the type of champion they make in these days!

At least two myths, long connected with baseball, have been exploded by the Federal League. For years we have been informed of a secret war fund being collected by each of the major leagues for use against any bold invader. Several major league magnates have been in dangerous financial straits, yet no comforting war fund has been called into play. If the magnates could not hold his, that was his own lookout.

It has been the same story with the "protection" supposed to be at hand for those in organized baseball. Jack Dunn, the game magnate in Baltimore, was allowed to go to the wall in his fight against the Federal League. Then he was allowed to pay some more of his hard money to get into Richmond in an effort to escape the grasp of the Gilmore tribe. Dunn must be delighted with the "protection" given him. Sure, he was "given permission" to sell his stars, to break up a pennant-winning club and pay his debts to others in the clan of organized baseball. But that must have been small satisfaction to a brainy man who has spent all his life on the diamond. Let's hear no more of this "war fund" or this "protection" until they appear. What sort of protection is the International League's attitude now? The Buffalo club is fighting an opposition Federal League outfit. Montreal and Toronto have a European war as a side attraction. Jersey City isn't even allowed to shift from a worn-out town to live one. If Newark is invaded by the Feds, Newark's International League club will be graciously allowed to follow Jack Dunn's example. This is the life!

Jack Johnson, world's heavyweight champion, may find himself in a peck of trouble, if he leaves the ring at Juarez, Mexico, with \$30,000 in his jeans after his bout with Jess Willard. Barred from the United States, he must reach civilization through Mexico. Can you imagine one of those Mexican generals allowing him to get away with some \$30,000 pesos, the equivalent in Mexican money of what Jack will have? With money scarce, some of these generals is almost certain to bag that coin. And what redress will Jack have? Nothing that can be seen with the naked eye.

Boys, there's hope! If the rumor be true that J. Franklin Baker, of Trappe, Md., and Philadelphia, Pa., will remain on the farm forevermore, the Griffiths men may have a chance to break into the championship. If the Red Sox, the White Sox, et al. don't happen to be looking, Baker has been with Collins, Barry, Bender and Plank, the worst line ever opposing a good, old-fashioned pitcher. The Griffiths are concerned. He has simply broken the hearts of several Washington pitchers. His timely homers, triples, and doubles, not to mention ordinary singles traveling like bullets, have spilled the beans many a time when the Griffiths seemed about to cash in. Connie declares that Baker will not be in line this season. Boys, there's hope!

Believe Jones Will Lead All in Dashes

"Nubby" Jones, Georgetown's crack sprinter, is expected to flash to the front in the dashes at the coming Georgetown indoor meet, staged at Convention Hall on the night of February 27. He is showing all his 1914 form in the daily workouts at the Hilltop and Coach O'Reilly believes Jones will show his heels to all the dash men appearing at the big meet.

Jones' great work in the intercollegiate last year stamped him as one of the best sprinters in the country, no matter what the conditions may be, and the Blue and Gray expect to see him land many points in the big meet.

It is possible that Jones will give himself a trial at the Hartford, Conn., meet, when the Hilltoppers face Massachusetts Institute of Technology in a relay. The Tech four defeated Dartmouth in 3:05 at the Boston A. A. meet and should force the West Enders to show all their speed before the tape is reached.

Georgetown's track athletes may also get a trial in the Johns Hopkins indoor meet next Saturday in Baltimore. The relay men will be at Hartford, but the rest of the squad will go over to the Monumental City and compete in their specialties. Coach O'Reilly is desirous of getting a good line of some of his second-string runners, and wants them all to appear, if only for the experience.

Prices are to be lowered this year for admission to the annual Georgetown indoor meet. Following the example of Graduate Manager Charles R. Cox, who lowered prices for the football games played across the creek, Manager Tom Gurry, of the team, has decided to have no seat or the big priced higher than \$1.50. The best seats at the finish will cost but \$1.00, cheap for the finish, which has never been in recent years. Seats below the finish will cost \$1.00 with general admission 50 cents.

"Mr. Cox tells me that with lowered prices the football season was more prosperous than ever before," explains Manager Gurry. "With no Virginia game, many thought the season would be a financial failure. However, the show was an increase over 1914, when Virginia did play football at Georgetown. With these facts in front of me, I have decided to lower the price for the track meet. That this is a good move is shown by the heavy advance sale at Spaulding's. I expect the hall to be crowded the night of the meet."